

Aging Texas Well Advisory Committee

February 5, 2020

Aging Texas Well Advisory Committee

Health and Human Services Commission

Moreton Building

M-100 Public Hearing Room

1100 W. 49th Street,

Austin, TX 78756

Table 1: Aging Texas Well AC member attendance at the Wednesday, February 5, 2020 meeting.

MEMBER NAME	YES	NO	MEMBER NAME	YES	NO
Bordie, Patricia		X	Wilson, Michael		X
Bower, Bruce	X		Zernial, Carol	P	
Crocker, Andrew	P		VACANT		
Flores, Richard	X				
Fredriksen, Amanda	X		Sheridan, Dirk (ex-officio)	P	
Gray, Anna	P		Spong, Tim (ex-officio)	P	
Mermelstein, Tammy	X		Taylor, Lynda (ex-officio)	X	
Saunders, Dr. Michele	X				

Yes: Indicates attended the meeting

No: Indicates did not attend the meeting

P: Indicates phone conference call

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and opening remarks

The **Aging Texas Well Advisory Committee** meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Dr. Michéle Saunders, Chair.

Mr. John Chacón, Advisory Committee Coordination Office, Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), announced that the meeting was being conducted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, conducted roll call and noted that a quorum was present for the meeting. Table 1 notes committee members' attendance at the meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Approve November 6, 2019, meeting minutes

Dr. Michéle Saunders, Chair, called for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2019 meeting.

Motion: Mr. Richard Flores moved to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2019 meeting as presented. Ms. Tammy Mermelstein seconded the motion. The Committee members unanimously approved the minutes by voice vote and roll call for members on the phone, with eight yeas, no nays, and no abstentions.

Agenda Item 3: Special Topic: Burden of oral disease among older adults and implications for public health priorities – Dr. Josefine Ortiz Wolfe, Oral Health Program Director, Texas Health Institute

Dr. Ortiz, made the presentation and referenced a PowerPoint entitled "Burden of Oral Disease Among Older Adults - Implications for Public Health Priorities".

DRAFT: 08/05/2020

Agenda Item 4: Division Reports

- a. Office of the State Long-term Care Ombudsman: Alexa Schoeman, Nursing Home Policy Specialist, provided program updates from the SLTCO. Ms. Schoeman explained her office is planning to seek funds from the legislature for a long-term care ombudsman volunteer coordinator to support ombudsmen and assist with recruiting more volunteers. Ms. Schoeman also discussed the quality review of assisted living facilities that is planned.
- b. Medicaid and CHIP Services: Dana Williamson, Director, Policy Development and Support, provided an update on the progress of the Rider 42 study on Medicaid waiver interest lists. Ms. Williamson explained that the study will look how other states handle their Medicaid waiver interest lists and identify strategies to recommend to the legislature on decreasing the lists in Texas.
- c. Access and Eligibility:
 - Office of Aging and Disability Resources Centers: Wes Yeager, Director, provided an update that staff are preparing for the June Housing Navigators Conference. In addition, ADRC staff have been updating the respite inventory on the Take Time Texas site as well as and conducting a quality review of the site looking into accessibility. The MIPPA Conference in May was also announced.
 - Office of Area Agencies on Aging: Deborah Michel, Interim OAAA Director, and Sue Fielder, Senior Policy Analyst, provided the updates from the OAAA. Ms. Michel discussed the Texas Congregate Meal Initiative funded by the Administration for Community Living to enhance partnerships and operations at congregate meal sites.

Ms. Fielder discussed the 2020 home-delivered meals pilot that will test new food delivery policy with the AAAs and their meal providers from April 1 – September 30. The pilot will take into consideration feedback obtained from the AAAs and providers and inform the final policy scheduled for implementation in early 2021. The policy will be based on regional needs and offer flexibility for providers on delivery of hot or frozen meals or multiple meals at a time.
- d. Health and Specialty Care System: Mike Maples, Deputy Executive Commissioner, provided updates an update on the Rider 110 plan for the future of the State Supported Living Center and State Hospital system. The plan will include feedback from stakeholders and outline how HSCS plans to optimize use of SSLCs in the future (e.g., repurposing the hospitals to provide step down options for folks that can transition into the community).
- e. Aging Services Coordination: Holly Riley, Manager, provided an update on the Older Adult Opioid Misuse and Prevention project. Currently, 24 AAA are participating in the project and there are 6 symposiums scheduled across the state:
 - a. 2/26 Lubbock
 - b. 4/1 Fort Worth
 - c. 4/28 Brian/College Station

Agenda Item 5: Committee Operations: Dr. Saunders, Chair

- b. Strategic Planning Subcommittee updates:
 - The subcommittee was reconvened to review agency Legislative Appropriation Requests that impact older adults and began meeting in January 2020.
- c. Members provide updates from their organizations:
 - Andy Crocker: announced that Texas AgriLife Extension Service has a new director.

- Carol Zernial: announced that WellMed is focusing on food insecurity across Texas and is working with local food banks to get more food to older adults.
- Anna Gray: No update
- Dirk Sheridan: shared that the turnover rate for Adult Protective Services caseworkers has decreased from 50% to 17% due to pay increases.
- Tim Spong: shared the Older Individuals that are Blind program is fully staffed and getting more referrals from rural areas.
- Richard Flores: shared information about the ADRC quarterly meeting.
- Amanda Fredriksen: announced that AARP has released new "Valuing the Invaluable" report on family caregivers and that AARP is looking at ways to work with managed care programs like STAR+PLUS.
- Bruce Bower: announced that Senior Day at the Capitol is planned for February 2021. He also shared that Texas Senior Advocacy Coalition is focusing on guardianship awareness: improve guardianship and providing education on alternatives guardianship and when and how to use them.
- Lynda Taylor: announced that the Texas State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease was released in October 2019. The plan includes recommended actions for the state and its partners to improve services for people with Alzheimer's and their family/caregivers.
- Tammy Mermelstein: announced her partnership with University of Houston to open the Collaboratory for Aging Education, an entity that will serve as a connector for older adults to information.

Agenda Item 6: Public Comment:

No public comment was offered.

Agenda Item 7: Action and agenda items for next meeting and wrap-up

Dr. Saunders announced that the next ATWAC meeting is on May 6, 2020. With no further business, Dr. Saunders adjourned the meeting at 11:11 am.

This meeting was webcast in compliance with Open Meetings Act. To access the webcast of the February 5, 2020 meeting, please go to

[Aging Texas Well Advisory Committee](#)